

Dear Michigan Agriculture Committee

I would like to address House Bills 4503, 4506 & 4507. I have experienced hog hunting from Michigan to Texas, Alabama, Florida and Georgia. I have guided hunters in many places across the country within high-fenced facilities, public as well as on private land. My guiding and hunting has taken place in states all across the Southern, Western, Great Lakes, Great Plains, Alaska, Saskatchewan and Ontario. I feel that Michigan has as much to offer as any place in North America.

I feel that the hogs within the high-fenced enclosures in Michigan are not a wild animal but more of an agricultural animal. These animals are raised in many places very similarly to farm raised domestic hogs. Those that are born and raised within a hunting enclosure are still an animal that is more of a "farm animal" than a wild animal.

I have read through the "A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILLS 4503-4507 AS INTRODUCED 3-24-11" and I believe that these bills will create a better industry as well as protect the environment outside of these enclosures used for raising and hunting hogs in Michigan.

There are many people within Michigan that benefit from the hog hunting industry. This industry brings in thousands of hunters into Michigan each year from surrounding states and even some from other parts of the world. Not only do the owners of these facilities benefit from the sale of hunts on their facilities but many others benefit greatly as well. Most of the animals that are harvested within Michigan are brought to local meat processors for cutting, smoking, sausage making and wrapping. Many of these same animals are preserved at local taxidermists which charge on average approx \$450 for each mount. These same hunters spend money on gasoline, restaurant meals, groceries, gifts and misc items across Michigan.

I feel that the main things that need to be addressed is not those that are following the rules already in place but those that are purposely blatantly breaking the rules. There are people that are releasing hogs on private and public land now and these people need to be stopped.

I do not have a hog breeding or hunting operation in Michigan or anywhere else. I do not profit in any way by the continuation of these operations. I do feel that many on both the provider and end user sides would lose out if you do not move forward to save this industry within Michigan.

Please feel free to call on me at any time if I can be of any service to my state.

Sincerely

Dean Hulce

Vulcan, MI

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